

# American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

## October 1-25, 2012

*If you are using this material, please include this disclaimer.*

*This daily press review is compiled by the Information Section of the Public Affairs Office of the American Embassy in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. The opinions expressed in these reviews in no way reflect the views of the United States Government and are presented for informational purposes only. The accuracy of reports contained in this summary has not been confirmed by the Embassy. For questions regarding this service, please contact: Mr. Folli Teko in the Public Affairs Press Office, [TekoFX@state.gov](mailto:TekoFX@state.gov).*

OCTOBER 25, 2012

Today's Top Stories

1. Gbagbo's party to boycott government-opposition dialogue
  2. A court in Ghana frees Gbagbo's spokesman
  3. Gbagbo to appear before ICC tomorrow
  4. NDI trains women ahead of local elections in Cote d'Ivoire
  5. U.S. Embassy organizes a discussion on "Media and Civil Society"
  6. USAID donates computers to Ivorian MPs
  7. President of the European Union Commission on a visit to Cote d'Ivoire
1. Gbagbo's party to boycott government-opposition dialogue

A prominent headline in *Notre Voie* says that the FPI, the party of the former Ivorian president, Laurent Gbagbo, will boycott a meeting that is scheduled today between the government and opposition parties. The paper (p. 2) also quotes some political leaders who cast "doubt" about the success of the government's initiative to engage in a political dialogue with the opposition parties.

"National dialogue to resume today: FPI won't be there," writes *Soir Info* (p. 4), which informs readers that barring the unexpected, the party of Mr. Gbagbo will not attend the meeting set to be chaired by Ivorian Prime Minister Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio. According to the paper, the party's executives met yesterday to decide on the boycott of the "direct dialogue" between the government and the opposition parties.

On other issues relating to the political atmosphere in Cote d'Ivoire, a front-page story in *Le*

*Nouveau Reveil* announces that President Ouattara and his ally, former president Henri Konan Bedie are due to meet today. According to the paper, the discussions between the two leaders will focus on the recent attacks on government forces, the national reconciliation process and the future of the ruling RHDP coalition.

Meanwhile, an Ivorian Reggae star has called on the government to release supporters of Mr. Gbagbo, reports *Soir Info* (p. 3) in order to foster reconciliation among Ivorians. The Alpha Blondy, the paper says, made the call during a nationwide reconciliation and peace campaign initiated by the country's artists. "Let's restore peace, free pro-Gbagbo prisoners," the paper quotes the Reggae star as saying.

## 2. A court in Ghana frees Gbagbo's spokesman

With a smiling picture of Justin Kone Katinan, the spokesman of the former Ivorian president on its front page, *Le Nouveau Courrier* carries a prominent headline reading: "Katinan free at last!" An article in this paper (p. 4) suggests that the Ghanaian court has "overruled" the Ivorian judges and went on to release from custody Mr. Justin Kone Katinan, who will be facing an extradition hearing next month.

*Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 2) sees the trial of Mr. Katinan, who is accused by the authorities in Cote d'Ivoire of "economic crimes and murder", as a "joke" that it calls "Accra Comedy Club." By releasing for the second time the spokesman of the former Ivorian president, "Accra is backing assailants," comments the paper, which believes that this decision could be seen as "a green light" given to Ivorians who sought refuge in Ghana "to continue their plan to destabilize their country with impunity."

A front-page story in *Le Nouveau Reveil* says that the Ghanaian court, which released yesterday Mr. Katinan from custody, set November 7, 2012 for the hearing relating to his extradition. "Cote d'Ivoire can extradite and try Katinan," the paper quotes the judge as saying.

## 3. Gbagbo to appear before ICC tomorrow

As Mr. Laurent Gbagbo is scheduled to appear in court tomorrow at The Hague, *Le Temps* (p. 1) is full of optimism about the possible release of the former Ivorian president who is detained by the International Criminal Court (ICC) on charges of crimes against humanity. But *Le Patriote* (p. 1) quotes the president of the association of the war victims of Cote d'Ivoire, as saying that "Gbagbo won't be released." "Tomorrow's hearing can change everything," reads a prominent headline in *Notre Voie* which attributes this statement to Fadi El Abdallah, the ICC's spokesman.

## 4. NDI trains women ahead of local elections in Cote d'Ivoire

In a bid to encourage them to participate in the management of public affairs, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) has trained some Ivorian women ahead of the upcoming local elections, reports *L'Inter* (p. 6). The training focused on issues such as political leadership. "We want 30 per cent of women to be elected as mayor," *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 4) quotes one of the participants as saying.

## 5. U.S. Embassy organizes a discussion on "Media and Civil Society"

Reports in *L'Inter* (p. 12) and *La Nouvelle* (p.8) say that “Relations between the media and the civil society in promoting democracy, human rights, good governance and reconciliation” was the subject of a conference organized on October 23, 2012 by the U.S. Embassy.

#### 6. USAID donates computers to Ivorian MPs

USAID has offered computers to the National Assembly, reports *Le Jour Plus* (p. 5). The computers were presented by Mark Emmerk on behalf of the director of USAID to the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Mrs. Fadika Sarra Sako. The computers will be set up in a multi-media room of the parliament to facilitate the work of the MPs.

#### 7. President of the European Union Commission on a visit to Cote d'Ivoire

*Le Patriote* (p.7) reports that Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Union Commission arrived yesterday in Abidjan as part of an official visit to Cote d'Ivoire. Mr. Barroso is scheduled to meet with Ivorian authorities including President Alassane Ouattara.

---

OCTOBER 24, 2012

Today's Top Stories

1. Israel to help boost security
2. Inmates in MACA on rampage
3. Ivorian and Burkinabe First Ladies on campaign against child labor
4. Cote d'Ivoire launches new national airline

#### 1. Israel to help boost security

“National security: Israel to reinforce the FRCI,” reads a front-page headline in *L’Intelligent d’Abidjan*. An article in this paper (p. 7) says that Israeli security experts have been meeting with their Ivorian counterparts in a bid to hammer out a plan to secure the Ivorian borders and to put an end to the recurrent armed attacks in Cote d’Ivoire. The paper, which cites a statement issued by the office of the chief of the defense staff, hints that the Israeli security experts have proposed that the country acquire “sophisticated” equipment including surveillance jets.

While the country is engaged in efforts to curb insecurity, *Nord-Sud Quotidien* carries a prominent headline blaming the recent attacks perpetrated by unidentified gunmen on “dysfunctions” in the country’s security system. The way the assailants are finding it easy to launch attacks on FRCI position has become a source of “concern” writes the paper (p. 2), which also prints a chronology of the attacks since President Alassane Ouattara assumed power. The paper believes that the country’s Chief of Defense Staff, Gen. Soumaila Bakayoko, has lost “credibility” following the recent attacks and advises the country’s security personnel to take seriously allegations of “infiltration” within the government’s Forces Republicaines de Cote d’Ivoire.

For full security to return to Cote d’Ivoire, *Le Patriote* (p. 4) suggests that the authorities in Ghana should follow the footsteps of their Liberian counterparts and cooperate more closely with Ivorian authorities to combat violence in the border region.

#### 2. Inmates in MACA on rampage

A report in *Fraternité Matin* (p. 9) says that tension was high yesterday at MACA, Abidjan’s main prison, when inmates violently protested the deployment of new guards. According to the paper, the new guards were briefly taken hostage by angry prisoners. The situation returned to normal after the intervention of government forces with the backing of UN peacekeepers.

#### 3. Ivorian and Burkinabe First Ladies on campaign against child labor

The First Ladies of Cote d’Ivoire and Burkina Faso have come together to fight against child labor in the two countries, reports *Fraternité Matin* (p. 11). “One of my engagements is the fight against child labor. We have common commitments with the First Lady of Burkina Faso. We are going to gather different ministers from Cote d’Ivoire and Burkina Faso to address the issue,” the paper quotes Mrs. Dominique Ouattara as saying upon her arrival in Ouagadougou as part of a working and friendly visit to Burkina Faso.

#### 4. Cote d'Ivoire launches new national airline

President Alassane Ouattara has launched Air Cote d'Ivoire, a new airline, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 13). According to the paper, the new carrier, a joint venture between the government of Cote d'Ivoire, Air France and the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development, will start operations beginning November 12. The company is 65 percent owned by the government of Cote d'Ivoire and 35 percent by other partners. The launching of Cote d'Ivoire's own airline is part of efforts being deployed by the government to get the country back on track, President Ouattara reportedly said.

---

OCTOBER 23, 2012

Today's Top Stories

1. Mixed reactions after meeting between President Ouattara and representatives of the Wê people
2. Ivorian women vow to fight for their rights
3. Ivorian communicators trained on how to design messages to fight HIV/AIDS
4. Conflicting reports on resumption of classes at the national universities

1. Mixed reactions after meeting between President Ouattara and representatives of the Wê people

Representatives of the Wê people from western Cote d'Ivoire have called for a "Plan Ouattara" to help rebuild the war-devastated region, says a front-page headline in *Fraternite Matin*. The call was made Monday in Abidjan during a meeting between President Alassane Ouattara and a large delegation of the Wê people, reports the paper. The report (p. 4) also says that issues such as the reconciliation process, launched after the violent post-electoral crisis, justice, security and the land tenure problem in the west of the country were high on the agenda during the discussion.

Another article in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 4) underlines the volatile situation in the west with a headline asking, "What will be the security situation after this meeting?" Despite the end of the 2011 post-electoral crisis that saw the capture of Laurent Gbagbo, the security situation in the west is still alarming, writes the paper, which cites a series of deadly attacks, some of them resulting in the killing of both civilians and security forces, including UN peacekeepers. After the meeting between the president and the Wê people the paper, however, wonders whether "this meeting of truth and humility" should be interpreted as "a sign of social cohesion."

"We have to eradicate violence from politics and our society," *Fraternite Matin* (p. 4) quotes President Ouattara as telling the delegation of the Wê people. "We must be women and men of peace by saying that what happened to Cote d'Ivoire was unacceptable," President Ouattara is also reported as saying. According to the paper, the president also used the occasion to call on some of the cadres of the region, who are still living in exile, to return home.

The Wê people have called for "pardon" reads a prominent headline in *Le Nouveau Reveil*, which describes the meeting between the president and the delegation as "a pact of reconciliation." The paper (pp. 6 & 7) also devotes large columns to the message of the Wê people who want "the security in the region to be manned by government forces." "A scenario of colonization of our lands is taking place every day in our regions," the paper quotes the spokesperson of the Wê people as saying about the recurrent problems regarding land ownership in the Ivorian western region. "I'm committed to making security return to the west," President Ouattara said, adding that "despite the stumbling blocks, I will continue to extend my hand to those who are causing the troubles."

With a picture of President Ouattara welcoming warmly the Wê people at the Presidency, *Le Patriote* carries a front-page headline suggesting that they have "understood" each other. "Ouattara and the Wê people tell the truth to each other," writes *Nord-Sud Quotidien* while a banner headline in *L'Inter* reads "The Wê people have set the record straight." Meanwhile, a front-page headline in *Notre Voie* calls the meeting a "mockery" of the Wê people by President

Ouattara. According to the paper (p. 2), the discussion has produced “no result” adding that the president has “no solution” for the demands made by the Wê people.

## 2. Ivorian women vow to fight for their rights

The Organization of Active Women in Cote d’Ivoire (OFACI) organized a workshop on women’s rights, reports *Soir Info* (p. 5). The training is to sensitize women on mechanisms that help protect their rights,” the paper quotes Namizata Sangare, the president of OFACI, as saying. Speaking during the program, the political and social counselor at the U.S. Embassy, Alex Snider, exhorted the women not to underestimate their potential.

## 3. Ivorian communicators trained on how to design messages to fight HIV/AIDS

A report in *Le Quotidien d’Abidjan* (p. 6) says that some 30 Ivoirians underwent ten-day training on how to develop and implement strategies and innovative communication strategies that are effective in the fight against HIV. The training was organized by John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health with the support of PEPFAR.

## 4. Conflicting reports on resumption of classes at the national universities

“Classes have started” reads a front-page headline in *Le Patriote* (p. 11). According to the paper, classes have effectively started at the Felix Houphouet Boigny and N. Abrogoua Universities. Reporting on a similar event, an article in *Soir Info* (p. 10) says that courses have not yet started in Abidjan’s public universities. The paper blames the delay on administrative problems, and reports that 5,000 students, who were sacked from the national universities, are threatening to launch a series of protests.

---

OCTOBER 22, 2012

Today’s Top Stories

1. President Ouattara to meet representatives from western Cote d'Ivoire over the situation in the region
2. Fresh attacks on security facilities in Bongouanou
3. Speculation over Laurent Gbagbo's chances to be released by the ICC
4. Inauguration of PEPFAR-sponsored HIV clinic
5. 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. Embassy's IRC
6. Former U.S. IVs to launch youth employment program
7. State-run newspaper's comments on the U.S. presidential election

1. President Ouattara to meet representatives from western Cote d'Ivoire over the situation in the region

"Ouattara to talk with his brothers from the west today," reads a prominent headline in *Le Patriote*, which ponder the stakes of what it sees as "a decisive meeting." The meeting between President Ouattara and representatives from western Cote d'Ivoire will focus on issues such as "reconciliation, security, land tenure and development," in the war-affected region, writes the paper (p. 6).

Speaking to *Fraternite Matin* (p. 11) ahead of the meeting, Emmanuel Coulayes, a traditional chief from the western region said, "We're going to talk about the development of the region."

A front-page headline in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* calls today's meeting "a mini-national dialogue" between the president and the western population, but regrets that some key officials from this region, most of them members of the former regime who fled the country after last year's post-electoral crisis, will not be in attendance. Another prominent headline in this paper suggests that the western population will use this meeting to demand, among other things, "the return of the refugees and the release of detainees."

Meanwhile, a front-page headline in *Notre Voie* says leaders from the western region are calling the meeting between President Ouattara and the population "a hoax," and have subsequently turned down the invitation to meet the president.

2. Fresh attacks on security facilities in Bongouanou

A front-page story in *Soir Info* says guns and ammunition were taken when gunmen attacked the gendarmerie of Bongouanou in east-central Cote d'Ivoire over the weekend.

In the wake of this fresh raid on a security facility, *Le Temps* carries a front-page headline saying that during 17 months under the regime of President Ouattara, Cote d'Ivoire has been victim of "15 attacks." These attacks, according to the paper, are evidence that the president has no control over the situation, comments the paper.

With pictures of the country's top security officials on its front page, including the Minister in charge of Defense, Paul Koffi Koffi and the Chief of Defense Staff, Gen. Soumaila Bakayoko,



*Nord-Sud Quotidien* wonders whether “they can still ensure the security of Ivorians.” An article in this paper (p. 2) suggests that it is high time for the president to listen to public opinion that is demanding “a total cleaning within the military hierarchy,” or to “shake up” a bit the country’s military commanders who, according to the paper, are showing “negligence.”

### 3. Speculation over Laurent Gbagbo’s chances to be released by the ICC

“Will Gbagbo be freed in 10 days?” asked a prominent headline in the weekend issue of *Le Nouveau Reveil* with a picture of the former Ivorian president on its front page. An article in this paper (p. 7) said that the International Criminal Court (ICC) has set a public hearing for October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to decide whether Mr. Laurent Gbagbo should “remain in jail or be freed.”

“Here are the chances of Gbagbo being released,” reads a front-page headline in *Soir Info*, which reports law experts as saying that the former Ivorian president could be granted bail during the upcoming hearing.

### 4. Inauguration of PEPFAR-sponsored HIV clinic

A report in *L’Inter* (p. 12) says a PEPFAR-sponsored HIV clinic was inaugurated last Friday in the Abidjan neighborhood of Yopougon. The clinic will help treat children infected by the disease, reports the paper, which also quotes U.S. Ambassador Phillip Carter III as saying, “this center must play a major role as a model for the treatment of HIV-infected children.”

### 5. 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. Embassy’s IRC

*Fraternite Matin* (p. 23) reports on activities organized by the U.S. Embassy to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Information Resource Center. The report underscores that the event brought together new as well as old members of the IRC including the Minister of Culture and La Francophonie, Maurice Bandama, who highlighted “the importance of the cultural centers, especially the American Cultural Center, in promoting education.”

### 6. Former U.S. IVs to launch youth employment program

AIVI-USA, an organization of former U.S. International Visitors, has pledged to support programs aimed at creating jobs for youths, said a report in the weekend edition of *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 6). According to the paper, the organization has recently launched a capacity-building project designed for Ivorian youths and women entrepreneurs.

### 7. State-run newspaper’s comments on the U.S. presidential election

*Fraternite Matin* publishes today a 4-page supplement fully devoted to the U.S. presidential election scheduled for November 6. “Obama-Romney: The last round,” reads a prominent headline with pictures of the two candidates speaking at campaign meetings. The writer comments that with its “solid democracy,” the presidential election in the United States always “fascinates” the world. The writer also devotes large columns explaining the issues at stake during the November election, adding that “the majority of the people of the United States are very proud of their political system.” Another page of this supplement explains the American electoral system, while the last page describes the Africa policy of incumbent President Barack

Obama as “very timid.”

---

OCTOBER 19

Today's Top Stories

1. The Ivorian government to resume talks with opposition amidst an upsurge of violence
2. Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia to launch joint security operation along border
3. UN experts release investigation report on Cote d'Ivoire
4. American Embassy's Public Affairs Section celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

1. The Ivorian government to resume talks with opposition amidst an upsurge of violence

According to a report in *Soir Info* (p. 8) the Ivorian government is to resume talks with the opposition. The move, the paper said, is meant to put back on track the “republican dialogue” initiated last April. The initial attempt to find common ground between the government and the opposition yielded mixed results after former president Laurent Gbagbo's FPI left the discussions. *Le Quotidien d'Abidjan* (p. 2) qualified the move as “another fake dialogue offensive.”

This announcement came amidst an upsurge of violence last weekend with attacks on government forces in the town of Bonoua and the Azito power plant in Abidjan. According to *L'Inter* (pp. 3-4) the most recent of this series of attacks took place yesterday in Alepe, 45 km northeast of Abidjan, where unidentified gunmen opened fire at an FRCI checkpoint. At least two assailants were killed in the raid, the paper added.

In a separate development (p. 2), the paper noted that 180 new members of the military police recently completed their training. These soldiers will be assigned to monitor security at sensitive sites such the airport and power plants, the paper said.

2. Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia to launch joint security operation along border

Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf met yesterday in Abidjan with her Ivorian counterpart Alassane Ouattara. Providing details on the one-day visit, *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6) noted that security along their common border was on the agenda of the meeting. “I want to reassure you that we will continue our surveillance, our monitoring, our intelligence gathering and we will take whatever action is necessary to ensure that peace and tranquility prevails,” she reportedly said. On his part, President Ouattara commended the Liberian leader for actions taken to secure the volatile border region. According to the daily, the two countries agreed to carry out joint security operations along their border before the end of the year.

3. UN experts release investigation report on Cote d'Ivoire

According to *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 4) a United Nations panel of experts officially released the findings of their investigation on Cote d'Ivoire. The wide-ranging report, which was

presented to the UN Security Council in New York, alleged that both the Ivorian government and partisans of former president Laurent Gbagbo violated provisions of the UN arms embargo imposed on the country. The report also alleged that Gbagbo's right-hand man Charles Ble Goude and other dignitaries of the former regime have set up a strategic command center from their places of exile to coordinate destabilization operations in Cote d'Ivoire.

*Le Nouveau Courrier* (pp. 3-6) called the report shameful. According to the daily, the ultimate goal of the allegations contained in the report was to serve the Ouattara administration by depicting his opponents as the villains.

#### 4. American Embassy's Public Affairs Section celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Abidjan launched yesterday activities to commemorate its fiftieth anniversary. The information was reported by *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 11) which noted that the event brought together government officials and cultural leaders.. In her opening address, Deputy Chief of Mission Cheryl Sim said that "since its inception in 1962 the mission of the Public Affairs Section has been to provide a window for the people of Cote d'Ivoire to understand the United States, its people and its culture." That goal, she added continues today. "Our Public Affairs Section continues that original mission, but it also works hand-in-hand with Ivorians of all ages and backgrounds who want to improve their own lives and help build a Cote d'Ivoire that is prosperous and tolerant," she reportedly said. Testimonials of veteran users and patrons from the Information Resource Center highlighted the event. Ivorian Minister of Culture Maurice Bandaman commended the U.S. Embassy for its actions to foster mutual understanding and cooperation, the paper further said.

---

OCTOBER 18, 2012

#### Today's Top Stories

1. Eight magistrates sanctioned for abuse of power
2. Government to recruit 2,000 guards to reinforce security in the prisons
3. Government adopts a multi-billion dollar development plan
4. Ghana judge sets one-week deadline in the case of former Ivorian president's spokesman
5. American business operations meet with Ivorian Prime Minister

#### 1. Eight magistrates sanctioned for abuse of power

"Eight magistrates suspended for abuse of power," reads a front-page headline in *Fraternite Matin*. According to the paper (p. 13), "this disciplinary measure" was announced yesterday at a cabinet meeting chaired by President Alassane Ouattara. The paper also quotes government deputy-spokesperson Raymonde Goudou Koffi, who said that the magistrates were also sanctioned for infractions ranging from "abandonment of post and corruption to extortion of money." "Corruption, which has unfortunately taken ground among certain actors of the Ivorian

justice system, must be banished,” the paper quotes President Ouattara as saying. For the president, who spoke earlier about the spate of corruption in Cote d’Ivoire, “the fight against corruption must be accompanied with coercive measures and appropriate sanctions such as expulsion from the judiciary system,” reports the paper.

## 2. Government to recruit 2,000 guards to reinforce security in the prisons

The government is to recruit 2,000 prison guards in order to “reinforce” security in the country’s prisons, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 13). The decision, which was taken after a meeting of the National Security Council, is contained in a statement issued yesterday at the end of the cabinet meeting, reports the paper. The statement says that the measure is part of the government’s efforts “to improve the standard of jails” in the country. The statement also underscores the timing of this measure following a series of jail breaks across the country.

## 3. Government adopts a multi-billion dollar development plan

A report in *Fraternite Matin* says the government has adopted a multi-billion dollar plan that outlines development projects in Cote d’Ivoire through the year 2020. According to the paper, the document was presented to President Ouattara yesterday at a cabinet meeting in Abidjan. Estimated at FCFA 11 trillion (about US \$22 billion), the implementation of this plan will enable Cote d’Ivoire to attain an 8.6 percent growth rate this year and 9 percent by the year 2013, indicates the paper.

## 4. Ghana judge sets one-week deadline in the case of former Ivorian president’s spokesman

A prominent headline in Soir Info says a Ghanaian judge has threatened to halt the case against Justin Katinan Kone. Mr. Katinan Kone, the spokesman for former Ivorian president Laurent Gbagbo who sought refuge in Ghana during last year's post-electoral crisis in Cote d'Ivoire, is accused of economic crimes and murder. According to the paper (p. 2), the judge on Wednesday gave prosecutors a one-week deadline to wrap-up an investigation linked to an extradition case against Mr. Katinan Kone. "If by one week you are not able to finish your investigations, I will release Mr. Katinan Kone," L'Inter (p. 2) reports the judge as saying at the court yesterday.

The threat from the Ghanaian judge to free Mr. Gbagbo's spokesman is also the subject of a front-page story in L'Intelligent d'Abidjan, which questions "the independence" of the Ghanaian prosecutors hearing the case. The paper (p. 7) also suggests that the case is being influenced by politics in both Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire and has virtually become a battle opposing the authorities of the two countries. As Ghana is preparing to hold general elections, the authorities there have no intention to take the risk of handing over to their Ivorian counterparts someone who has sought refuge on their soil, comments the paper.

#### 5. American business operations meet with Ivorian Prime Minister

"American businessmen have pledged to invest FCFA 500 billion (about US \$1 billion)," says a report in L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 3). According to the paper, this was announced yesterday when a delegation of the American business operators called on Prime Minister Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio in Abidjan.

---

### OCTOBER 17

#### Today's Top Stories

1. President Ouattara orders reinforcement of security at key points after attacks on power station and security facilities
2. The mood in Abobo after clash between police and angry mobs
3. Extradition hearing of former Ivorian president's spokesman in Ghana delayed
4. A training for disabled persons launched in Bouake
5. USAID delegation visits Dimbokro and Bongouanou

1. President Ouattara orders reinforcement of security at key points after attacks on power station and security facilities

President Alassane Ouattara has ordered the security forces to be on "high alert" and "to reinforce key security points," Fraternite Matin (p. 6) reports the Minister in charge of Defense, Paul Koffi Koffi, as saying. According to the minister, the president gave the instructions at a meeting of the National Security Council following raids by gunmen early Monday morning on a power plant in Abidjan and on security facilities in the southeastern city of Bonoua, about 60 km from Abidjan. The Minister of Mining, Petrol and Energy, Adama Toungara, who took part in

the meeting, expressed “hope that no strategic sites would be attacked again,” reports the paper. Strategic sites include the Presidential Palace, Primature, National Assembly, the residences of the head of state, the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Prime Minister, as well as the headquarters of the state broadcaster, reports the paper.

In related security issues, *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6) carries an article suggesting that “the danger is not yet over.” Speaking about the attack on the power plant in Abidjan, the Minister in charge of Defense confirmed the “infiltration” of the government forces, adding that “nine suspects, including two police personnel, two gendarmes, three navy personnel and two civilians, have been arrested.”

According to a front-page headline in *Soir Info*, there is “danger” ahead as “the population in Bonoua is pressing for the Dozos to quit the city.” Another prominent headline in this paper (p. 4) suggests that President Ouattara is “committed to overcoming the danger” that has become apparent following the recent attacks. The paper opines that President Ouattara’s “good collaboration” with his Liberian counterpart, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, has helped restore calm in the volatile western region of Cote d’Ivoire, while the Ghanaian authorities are reported to have taken “new measures” to insure that security prevails at the Ghana-Cote d’Ivoire border following “diplomatic pressure” from the Ivorian leader.

Meanwhile, an article in *L’Inter* (p. 4) claims that the recent attacks have brought to light “dysfunctions” in the state security system. The paper goes on to question “the role of the state intelligence,” which, it notes, was “incompetent” to preempt the attacks. *Le Patriote* (p. 2), which calls the perpetrators of the recent attacks “the enemies of the Republic,” accuses supporters of the former president, Laurent Gbagbo, of trying “to set the country ablaze.”

Telling readers its side of the story about the recent attacks in Abidjan and elsewhere across the country, a prominent headline in *Notre Voie* claims that President Ouattara is being “attacked by his own fighters.” The paper (p. 2) also claims that the timing of the recent attacks, which occurred after Ghanaian authorities had taken security measures regarding the Ivorian refugees living in Ghana and the incarceration of cadres of the opposition FPI party suspected to have colluded with people plotting to overthrow the government in Cote d’Ivoire, is evidence that supporters of the former president are “innocent.”

The paper (p. 3) also publishes a statement issued by the FPI which “strongly condemned” Monday’s attacks in Bonoua and Abidjan.

On another development, a report in *Soir Info* (p. 6) says 25 out of 40 refugees who were arrested over the weekend by the Ghanaian authorities have been released. According to the paper, the Ghanaian authorities took this decision after clearing them of any involvement in a recent attack on the Ivorian side of the Ghana-Cote d’Ivoire border.

## 2. The mood in Abobo after clash between police and angry mobs

A front-page headline in *L’Intelligent d’Abidjan* describes Abobo, where clashes opposed government forces and angry youths on Monday, as “Bagdad City.” With a photo depicting a showdown between demonstrators and security forces, the paper (p. 5) reports that tension was still high yesterday with reports of continued gunfire.

“Abobo, the powder keg,” reads a banner headline in Le Nouveau Courrier, which says that the country has become “ungovernable” under President Ouattara’s regime. A front-page headline in Le Temps describes the atmosphere in Abobo, reputed to be a “stronghold” of President Ouattara, as “the price to pay for armed rebellion,” forcing “the government to confront the monster it created.”

According to a front-page story in L’Inter armed thugs in Abobo are “terrorizing” the population after a government operation aimed at dispersing peddlers who were blocking traffic on roads surrounding the main market area in the Abidjan neighborhood of Abobo turned sour.

### 3. Extradition hearing of former Ivorian president’s spokesman in Ghana delayed

According to a front-page story in Notre Voie, a Ghanaian court on Tuesday postponed the extradition hearing for Justin Katinan Kone, a spokesman for Mr. Laurent Gbagbo. According to the report (p. 6), judges will rule on the case today after they called on prosecutors to simplify the complex proceedings. The article also explains that Mr. Kone is wanted in Cote d’Ivoire for economic crimes and on murder charges.

### 4. A training for disabled persons launched in Bouake

Bouake’s City Hall, the National Agency for Vocational Training (AGEFOP) and the NGO Action on Disability & Development-Cote d’Ivoire (ADD-CI) have launched a joint program aimed at training disabled persons, reports Fraternite Matin. The article (p. 22) says that the combined efforts of these institutions will help disabled individuals become independent while contributing to Cote d’Ivoire’s economic growth.

### 5. USAID delegation visits Dimbokro and Bongouanou

A USAID delegation led by Ms. Shawntel Hines visited the cities of Dimbokro and Bongouanou, reports Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 9). The mission’s objective was to evaluate the interactions between the cities’ respective deputies and their populations to determine the effectiveness of USAID’s support program.

---

OCTOBER 16, 2012

Today’s Top Stories

1. National Security Council meets after attacks on power station and security facilities
2. Clash between police and angry mobs in Abobo
3. Ethnic group calls for the disarmament of the Dozos and foreigners
4. President Ouattara holds talks with former Nigerian president
5. Classes officially resume at the national university
6. American business operators in Cote d'Ivoire

#### 1. National Security Council meets after attacks on power station and security facilities

A front-page headline in *Fraternite Matin* says President Alassane Ouattara summoned on Monday the National Security Council after gunmen attacked a power station and security facilities in and around Cote d'Ivoire's commercial capital Abidjan. "The President of the Republic has ordered the reinforcement of security at key points," the paper (p. 6) quotes the Minister in charge of Security, Paul Koffi, as saying. According to the minister, "two people were killed" while "nine people, including seven government soldiers, police officers and two civilians, were arrested" in connection with the overnight raids in Abidjan and the southeastern city of Bonoua, about 60 km from Abidjan.

According to a prominent headline in *Le Nouveau Courrier*, the overnight raids in Abidjan and the southeastern city of Bonoua were staged by "a mysterious commando." "Guns were seized as the invisible commando took the FRCI by surprise," reads a front-page headline in *Le Temps*.

Meanwhile, a report in *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 4) says the military high command has decided to reduce the number of check-points in a bid to facilitate the free movement of the population in the district of Abidjan. The paper quotes an official statement saying that only 31 check-points will be maintained in Abidjan and the surrounding area, adding that the measure will primarily help reduce road traffic and put an end to racketeering.

#### 2. Clash between police and angry mobs in Abobo

A front-page story in *L'Inter* says that a government operation aimed at dispersing peddlers who were blocking traffic on roads surrounding the main market area in the Abidjan neighborhood of Abobo turned sour yesterday as angry youths clashed with the police. With a picture of defiant youths on its front page, *Fraternite Matin* reports that "the worst was avoided" when three government ministers took refuge in the mayor's office. "One soldier was killed" during exchange of gunfire between security forces and angry mobs, reports *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 1).

"Three ministers escape death," reads a front-page headline in *Notre Voie*, which accuses President Ouattara of "messing up" the country. According to the paper, the clash yesterday in Abobo was between government forces and "armed militiamen." The paper also (p. 3) asks: "Who provided guns to the thugs in Abobo?" "The public health operation we wanted to launch revealed that there were people carrying illegal weapons in the area," the paper quotes Urban Health and Safety Minister Anne Desiree Ouloto as saying.



### 3. Ethnic group calls for the disarmament of the Dozos and foreigners

“The people of Kroumen ethnic group called for the disarmament of the Dozos and foreigners,” reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 8). According to the paper, the people made the call during a campaign for reconciliation and peace in the southwestern region of Cote d’Ivoire. They also called on the government to act swiftly in order to put an end to illegal check-points erected by traditional hunters known as Dozos.

### 4. President Ouattara holds talks with former Nigerian president

*Fraternite Matin* (p. 7) reports that President Ouattara held talks with former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo yesterday in Abidjan. Mr. Obasanjo, who described the talks as “friendly,” is also reported as saying that the discussion with President Ouattara, who is the current chairman of the ECOWAS regional block, focused on “bilateral, African and international issues.”

### 5. Classes officially resume at the national university

“Back to school” reads a headline in *Fraternité Matin* (p. 11) which reports that there was “a low turnout” yesterday at the national university in Abidjan. The article also says that the slow start of classes after the reopening of the university was mainly due to technical and administrative problems. A report in *Soir Info* (p.10), however, says that classes have not yet started as planned.

### 6. American business operators in Cote d’Ivoire

A U.S. economic mission composed of business leaders in the fields of construction, medicine, and technology security arrived yesterday in Abidjan reports *La Matinale* (p. 8). According to the paper, the agenda of the mission includes meetings with government officials and other institutions.

---

OCTOBER 15, 2012

### Today’s Top Stories

1. Fresh attacks on government forces
2. About 60 Ivorian refugees arrested in Ghana – reports say
3. Army officers trained on how to fight illegal cross-border arms trafficking
4. Detention conditions of former first lady Simone Gbagbo
5. Ivorian reggae star joins PEPFAR to campaign against HIV

#### 1. Fresh attacks on government forces

A prominent story on the website of the Ivorian state-run news agency AIP says that gunmen attacked last night a government forces position in the southeastern city of Bonoua, about 60 km from Abidjan. The article quotes a military source as saying, “We’ve pushed them (the assailants) back. We’re trying to secure the main road that leads to Ghana.”

Still on the security situation, the Ivorian news website abidjan.net carries a French news agency's report saying that a power plant was attacked last night in Abidjan. "The Azito power plant came under attack about 03:00 a.m. as gunmen in military uniforms tried to gain control of the site, but our men have pushed them back," the report quotes the Minister in charge of Defense, Paul Koffi Koffi, as saying. The minister also disclosed the "arrest of several people who are being questioned."

In a related development, a prominent headline in Nord-Sud Quotidien says that government forces have thwarted a project to attack MACA, the principal prison in Abidjan. According to the paper (p. 3), the so-called coup organizers tried to use a power cut to distribute "arms and ammunition" to soldiers and militiamen loyal to former president Laurent Gbagbo who are incarcerated in this prison.

With more on the security situation in Cote d'Ivoire, a front page story in today's issue of Le Nouveau Reveil says that a former leader of the Ivorian Student Federation – FESCI - who sought refuge in Ghana, is planning to organize an attack on the southeastern city of Aboisso.

Meanwhile, a prominent headline in the weekend issue of Le Patriote quoted President Alassane Ouattara issuing a warning to people who are planning "to destabilize" Cote d'Ivoire." According to the president, there is "no room for disorder," adding "I'm irremovable." The Ivorian president, who was speaking during his recent visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo on the margins of the Francophonie Summit, also reaffirmed his commitment to continue the reconciliation program that, he said, will be done without forgetting the "victims" of the recent political crisis in Cote d'Ivoire.

## 2. About 60 Ivorian refugees arrested in Ghana – reports say

A front-page report in today's edition of L'Inter says that nearly 60 Ivorian refugees have been arrested by the Ghanaian authorities. According to the paper (p. 2), the refugees were picked up over the weekend at the Ampain refugee camp, about 70 km from the Ghana-Cote d'Ivoire border. The report says that the arrested refugees included those who do not have any "papers" and some who were registered as former combatants.

## 3. Army officers trained on how to fight illegal cross-border arms trafficking

About 24 military officers have received capacity-building training on how to clamp down on illegal cross-border arms trafficking, reported Fraternite Matin (p. 10) in its weekend issue. The training, the report says, was designed to equip the Ivorian military officers to fight against the proliferation and transit of illicit arms across the borders.

## 4. Detention conditions of former first lady Simone Gbagbo

"Detained arbitrarily, Simone Gbagbo tells the story of her ordeal," reads a prominent headline in today's issue of Le Temps. According to the paper, the health of the former first lady has become "critical." According to the paper (p. 7), Mrs. Gbagbo, who is being detained in Odienne, met with Doudou Diene, the UN independent expert on human rights. "She told me that she was briefly moved to another location... where the living conditions were not the same as those of the villa where she was staying... She said that this situation had affected her health,"

the paper quotes Mr. Diene as saying.

#### 5. Ivorian reggae star joins PEPFAR to campaign against HIV

A report in the weekend issue of *Fraternite Matin* (p. 23) said that Ivorian reggae star Tiken Jah Fakoly has joined a PEPFAR-led campaign against HIV/AIDS in Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, the reggae star was one of the key speakers at a ceremony marking the announcement of a song and essay competition organized by PEPFAR in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Fight Against AIDS.

---

OCTOBER 12, 2012

#### Today's Top Stories

1. General Bruno Dogbo Ble sentenced to 15 years in prison
2. Forensic autopsies to be carried out on bodies found in mass grave
3. Ivorian Grande Chanceliere Henriette Dagry pleads for the admission of women into the gendarme corps
4. Broadcast liberalization delayed, HACA president confirms

#### 1. General Bruno Dogbo Ble sentenced to 15 years in prison

A court in Abidjan sentenced yesterday General Bruno Dogbo Ble, the former head of the elite Republican Guards, to fifteen years in prison. The information made news in today's press and was diversely commented on. According to *Le Patriote* (p. 6) the verdict came after the court found Gen. Dogbo Ble guilty of complicity in the abduction and killing of retired colonel Adama Dosso. Four other members of the Republican Guard, including Jean Noel Leo Lago, a soldier who testified he killed the colonel after their chief ordered the operation, were also convicted and given sentences ranging from five to fifteen years, the paper added.

*Notre Voie* (p. 3), for its part, noted that Gen. Dogbo Ble's lawyer Mathurin Djirabou said he believes the verdict was flawed. "To me this decision is inconsistent... there were only two options for the court: to declare him guilty or to set him free," he claimed. *Le Temps* (p. 2) denounced a mockery of a trial.

This development came as a court in Ghana postponed until next week the trial and possible extradition process of former president Laurent Gbagbo's spokesperson Justin Katinan Kone. The information was reported by *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 3) which noted that Mr. Katinan Kone is to remain in custody despite previously being released on bail.

#### 2. Forensic autopsies to be carried out on bodies found in mass grave

In a statement issued yesterday, the Ivorian Ministry of Justice said forensic analysis will be carried out on the remains of six people found in a mass grave in Duekoue. The information was reported by *Fraternite Matin* (p. 9) which noted that the probe is meant to identify the deceased

people and shed light on the circumstances of their deaths.

Still on the issue, with pictures of the macabre scene Notre Voie (p. 4) alleged that regional state prosecutor Oliver Bouaffon and rights groups are at loggerheads on how to handle the case. The paper noted that six human bodies, not the fifteen it initially reported, were removed from the grave.

### 3. Ivorian Grande Chanceliere Henriette Dagry pleads for the admission of women into the gendarmerie corps

Attending yesterday in Abidjan the graduation ceremony of newly trained officers from the gendarmerie, La Grande Chanceliere Henriette Dagry called for the gendarmerie to be opened to women. Fraternite Matin (p. 4) reported on the plea she made before the Ivorian leader on the occasion. “I know how committed you [President Alassane Ouattara] are to women’s empowerment and this is why I am submitting the request to see women admitted to the gendarmerie,” the paper reported her as saying.

### 4. Broadcast liberalization delayed, HACA head confirms

The head of the Haute Autorité de la Communication Audiovisuelle (HACA), Cote d’Ivoire’s broadcast regulator, confirmed that the liberalization of the country’s broadcast media will not happen in 2012, as previously announced. The information comes from Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 11). According to the paper, HACA president Ibrahim Sy Savane defended his agency’s decision to proceed cautiously, citing lessons learned from countries where broadcast liberalization had failed due to “confusion over roles and pointless institutional squabbles.”

---

OCTOBER 11, 2012

### Today’s Top Stories

1. UN leaked report: Ivorian government says it has not been formally informed of allegations
2. Ivorian government bans smoking in public spaces
3. Colonel Adama Dosso’s widow calls for justice
4. Mass grave reportedly found near ransacked Nahibly refugee camp

### 1. UN leaked report: Ivorian government says it has not been formally notified of allegations

According to government spokesperson Bruno Kone, the Ivorian government has not been formally notified of allegations contained in the UN report leaked over the weekend. The information was reported by Soir Info (p. 3) which noted that Mr. Kone said he cannot comment on it. “We have not been officially informed on the subject report therefore we will not comment on it,” he reportedly said. “We may do that at a later stage once formally notified by the UN,” he added. The leaked UN report contains allegations that pro-Gbagbo militants in exile reached out to Islamists in northern Mali and the Malian military junta to make plans to destabilize the

Ivorian government. FPI dignitaries, including fugitive youth leader Charles Ble Goude, the former director of the port of Abidjan, Marcel Gossio, and former president Laurent Gbagbo's second wife Nady Bamba have denied the accusations, the paper said.

## 2. Ivorian government bans smoking in public spaces

The Ivorian government moved to ban smoking in public spaces, including in mass transportation, during yesterday's cabinet meeting. The information was released by *Fraternite Matin* (pp. 8-9) which noted that the decision aims at reducing the number of tobacco-related illnesses. According to government spokesperson Bruno Kone, some 26 billion CFA francs (approximately US \$52 million) are spent yearly by the government to support healthcare costs linked to smoking. Fines ranging from CFA 15,000 to 100,000 (US \$30 to \$200) have been set, the paper said, adding that the measure is to be enforced in workplaces, clubs, restaurants and entertainment spaces.

Still on the cabinet meeting, the paper noted (p. 10) that regional community colleges in Korhogo and Daloa have been upgraded to the status of full university.

## 3. Colonel Adama Dosso's widow calls for justice

In an emotion-laden statement yesterday at the witness box, the widow of retired Colonel Adama Dosso said she wants justice to be rendered for her deceased husband. Providing details on the latest developments in the ongoing trial of General Bruno Dogbo Ble – the person accused of the murder of the retired colonel – *Nord Sud Quotidien* (p. 2) noted that Mrs. Mireille Dosso said her husband never came back from an appointment at the then-besieged Golf Hotel on March 12, 2011. "I happened to know the whereabouts of my late husband when his murderer – a Jean Noel Lagaud – confessed that he and his colleagues killed him," she reportedly said. "I want justice to be rendered," she insisted.

## 4. Mass grave reportedly found near ransacked Nahibly refugee camp

According to a report in *Notre Voie* (p. 5) a mass grave was found yesterday in the vicinity of the ransacked refugee camp of Nahibly, near Duekoue in western Cote d'Ivoire. The paper alleged that the remains of some fifteen bodies have been exhumed so far in the presence of officials from the United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (ONUCI) and staff from the local gendarmerie. The bodies found are likely those of the 200 people who lost their lives during the assault on the refugee camp of Nahibly in July, the paper said.

*Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 3) carried a similar account, adding that there is no doubt the perpetrators are soldiers from the Republican Forces of Cote d'Ivoire (FRCI) based in the town.

---

OCTOBER 10, 2012

Today's Top Stories

## 1. President Ouattara vows to address human rights issues

2. Missing fuel tanker freed by hijackers
3. Heated debate reported as General Dogbe Ble's trial goes on
4. Destabilization operations still in the offing, pro-government paper claims
1. President Ouattara vows to address human rights issues

President Alassane Ouattara attended yesterday in Yamoussoukro the opening of the 52nd session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). The information was reported by *Fraternite Matin* (p. 12) which noted that the Ivorian leader vowed to address human rights issues. "Human rights are not yet guaranteed," he reportedly said, adding that challenges such as gender-based violence, the proliferation of arms of mass destruction and of light weapons, armed conflicts, illiteracy and AIDS pose a threat on the African continent. According to the Ivorian leader, collective efforts are still needed to address these problems. As for the situation in Cote d'Ivoire, President Ouattara said a decade of political turmoil has exacerbated the issue of human rights. However, efforts are underway to catch-up. "We are committed to improving within one year the human rights situation," the paper reported the Ivorian leader as saying.

Addressing the Malian crisis, President Ouattara said the situation calls for a timely reaction from the international community to avoid further escalation of abuses in the sub-region.

In a related development, *L'Inter* (p. 7) noted that the United States government said it is ready to support a military intervention to oust the Islamists of northern Mali. "Should France decide to intervene militarily in Mali, we will support the move," the paper reported Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Philip Gordon as saying in an interview with the French daily *Le Monde*. "The recent events in Benghazi have shown that terrorism is spreading over North Africa with possible links to unrest in the Maghreb and the Sahel," he added.

2. Missing fuel tanker freed by hijackers

The Greek-owned oil tanker which was likely hijacked while anchored off Abidjan was released by the pirates. The information was reported by *L'Inter* (p. 7). The paper noted that the tanker was freed by the hijackers yesterday off Nigeria after some of its cargo of petroleum was stolen. According to the daily, which cited the French news agency AFP, the 24 crew members on board are all safe. This is the latest of similar incidents in the area involving pirates targeting fuel cargo rather than demanding payment of ransom to release ships, the paper said.

3. Heated debate reported as General Dogbe Ble's trial goes on

According to *Soir Info* (p. 2) heated debates were once again reported yesterday in the trial of General Bruno Dogbo Ble. The defense and the prosecution still present contrary accounts of the events that surround the kidnapping and murder of retired colonel Adama Dosso. The paper noted that General Dogbo Ble, accused of being the man who masterminded the murder, remains adamant that he was not involved. "I gave no such orders," he reportedly said.

Notre Voie (p. 8), for its part, noted that the affidavits submitted by the prosecution contradict one another. This situation, the paper said, is bringing to light the machinations behind the trial of the former head of the Republican Guards.

#### 4. Destabilization operations still in the offing, pro-government paper claims

According to a report in Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 3), an imminent attack by unidentified armed men is in the offing. Citing an Ivorian refugee based in Togo, the paper said exiled pro-Gbagbo militants have set up a strategic command in neighboring Ghana with the goal of destabilizing the government in Cote d'Ivoire and returning to power.

"Trouble on the horizon" reads a banner headline in L'Inter. The paper (p. 4) noted that unidentified armed bands have been seen along the Liberia-Cote d'Ivoire border. Citing the news website Koaci.com, the paper said it is likely that this "Liberian commando" is composed of mercenaries interested in plundering the riches of the Ivorian forest. The chief of staff of the Ivorian army (FRCI) is reported not to have been informed of this recent development, the paper adds.

Reporting on a similar event, L'Inter (p. 4) noted that Le Figaro, a French newspaper, published a UN report that states that alleged pro-Gbagbo militants and ex-Ouattara soldiers are plotting with Ansar Dine, an Islamic extremist group, to attack Abidjan. The report further claims that anonymous individuals are smuggling weapons across the Mali-Cote d'Ivoire border.

---

OCTOBER 9, 2012

#### Today's Top Stories

1. General Dogbe Ble denies link to murder case
2. Leaked UN report: Exiled partisans of Laurent Gbagbo reached out to Islamist radicals
3. Cote d'Ivoire reopens borders with Ghana
4. Fuel tanker missing after leaving Abidjan port

#### 1. General Dogbe Ble denies link to murder case

The trial of General Bruno Dogbe Ble, the former head of the elite Republican Guard under former president Laurent Gbagbo, resumed yesterday in Abidjan. The information made news in today's press and was diversely commented on. With a picture of Dogbe Ble with his lawyer, L'Inter (p. 6) noted that the accused denied any link to the death of retired Colonel Adama Dosso in March 2011. "I did my job and I am proud of having been loyal," the paper reported him as saying. In response to accusations that he directed the kidnapping and murder of the retired military officer, Dogbo Ble said he never gave such an order. He also denounced maneuvers to politicize the trial and depict him as a criminal, the paper added.

A banner headline in Le Patriote said that General Dogbo Ble has no remorse and is using lies to

duck his responsibilities.

## 2. Leaked UN report: Exiled partisans of Laurent Gbagbo reached out to Islamist radicals

According to a leaked United Nations report that went viral over the weekend after the French wire service RFI released an excerpt, exiled partisans of the Ivorian ex-leader Laurent Gbagbo have reportedly tried to recruit Islamist rebels from neighboring Mali in a bid to destabilize the Ouattara regime. The allegations have triggered reactions from leaders of Gbagbo's FPI party, including the former leader of the militant student group known as FESCI, Charles Ble Goude, and the former director of the port of Abidjan, Marcel Gossio. According to L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 2) both men denied the accusations. "I strongly condemn this machination," the paper reported Mr. Gossio, who was named in the UN report as one of the leaders of the plot, as saying. The fugitive youth leader Ble Goude, for his part, said he is committed to peace. "Violence has never been an option for me as a political leader," he reportedly said.

## 3. Cote d'Ivoire reopens borders with Ghana

Land and maritime borders between Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana were reopened yesterday. According to a report in Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 4), business is slowly picking up after the two week closure. In response to an attack by unidentified gunmen that resulted in the closing of the border, Ghanaian authorities have reinforced border security, the paper said.

## 4. Fuel tanker missing after leaving Abidjan port

A Greek fuel tanker has been reported missing after departing the port of Abidjan without notice late Friday night. The information was reported by L'Inter (p. 13) which noted similarities between this incident and a similar case in Togo where a ship was hijacked by pirates. Identified as the Orfeas, the ship was carrying 32,000 tons of fuel. If confirmed, this will be first reported case of piracy in Ivorian waters, the paper added.

---

OCTOBER 5, 2012

## Today's Top Stories

1. UN envoy Bert Koenders meets with exiled FPI dignitaries
2. Alleged fraud plagues census of former combatants
3. Jailbreak in neighboring Liberia raises security concerns in Cote d'Ivoire
4. MCC tops human rights workshop

## 1. UN envoy Bert Koenders meets with exiled FPI dignitaries

According to an article in Notre Voie (p. 2) the UN special envoy in Cote d'Ivoire Bert Koenders met Wednesday in Accra, Ghana with exiled dignitaries of former president Laurent Gbagbo's FPI party. The move, the paper said, was part of an offensive to help put back on track the peace and reconciliation process. The paper reported that leading FPI figures, including ex-ministers



Assoa Adou and Don Mello Ahoua voiced their concerns to Mr. Koenders. “Our assets having been frozen; our main concerns are as basic as finding a house to sleep in, finding food and health care,” the paper reported Mr. Adou as saying on behalf of the political exiles. “We have lost everything and do not have the capability of plotting a coup,” he said, referring to allegations that Gbagbo supporters in Ghana are planning to destabilize Cote d’Ivoire.. Mr. Adou also called on the Ivorian government to release all political prisoners and call off all arrest warrants against FPI leaders.

## 2. Alleged fraud plagues census of former combatants

According to an article in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 8), allegations of fraud are plaguing the ongoing census of former combatants. Citing Mr. Ibrahim Diarrassouba, the president of the association of demobilized soldiers known as the ADCI, the paper said that the operation has not met its goals because of fraudulent practices. Individuals not known to be former combatants are being registered instead of real former soldiers who fought alongside the Republican Forces of Cote d’Ivoire during the crisis, Mr. Diarrassouba said. He called on the government to address the issue to avoid future conflicts.

*Soir Info* (p. 7) for its part noted the leaders of the ADCI have threatened to look for legal support should the concerns of genuine ex-combatant not addressed. To date, a total of 99,965 combatants have been registered since the launch of the operation in Bouake, the paper added.

## 3. Jailbreak in neighboring Liberia raises security concerns in Cote d’Ivoire

A score people escaped Wednesday from a Liberian maximum security prison in the southeastern city of Zwedru along the border with Cote d’Ivoire. The information was reported by *Fraternite Matin* (p. 9) which noted that a manhunt led by the Liberian police is under way in the forested area that borders Cote d’Ivoire.

A report in *Soir Info* (p. 4) said the region is known for being the base for militia bands and partisans of former president Laurent Gbagbo who have been accused of being the perpetrators of cross-border attacks.

## 4. MCC tops human rights workshop

A two-day capacity-building workshop is being organized in Abidjan by the Ministry of Human Rights. The information was reported by *Soir Info* (p. 6) which noted that the training aims at addressing the challenges the country needs to overcome to safeguard public liberties and to ensure that the rule of law prevails in Cote d’Ivoire. According to the daily, the bottom-line is to outline reforms necessary for the country to be admitted under the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and benefit from financial incentives the program offers. “We need to work towards the country’s admission by November, but this calls for improvement in indicators such as good governance,” the paper reported the Ivorian Minister of Human Right as saying in his opening address.

---

OCTOBER 4, 2012

Today's Top Stories

1. The Ivorian parliament resumes work
2. Laurent Gbagbo's top military officers in court
3. President Alassane Ouattara to attend summit on monetary cooperation
4. FPI youth branch calls off demonstration

1. The Ivorian parliament resumes work

The second session of the Ivorian National Assembly opened yesterday in Yamoussoukro. The information was reported by *Fraternite Matin* (pp. 8-9) which noted that the event brought together government officials including the Ivorian Premier Jeannot Ahoussou-Kouadio and the parliament speakers from Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Guinea and Niger. In his opening address, the president of the Ivorian parliament, Guillaume Soro, said the time has come for Ivorians to work hand in hand. "The country needs all of her children," he reportedly said as he pleaded for the return of exiles. "Any other option is definitely fruitless," he underscored. This second session of the Ivorian Parliament is to rule on the country's budget, the paper said, adding that the members of the parliament, in line with the Ivorian constitution, have seventy calendar days to ratify and/or amend the government's budget proposal.

Still on the issue and speaking to the Ghanaian delegation, *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (pp. 4-5) said Guillaume Soro commended the long and positive relationship between Cote d'Ivoire and neighboring Ghana. "The people of both countries are members of the same family," he said, adding that, like in all tight-knit communities, misunderstandings and skirmishes may happen from time to time. Mr. Soro, the paper said, was referring to the diplomatic chill between the two countries following a cross-border attack last month at Noe, near the Ghanaian border.

The paper also reported on the address by Senegalese Speaker Moustapha Niasse, who called on Ivorians, irrespective of their political obedience, to find common ground and move forward for the sake of the country.

With more on the National Assembly, *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 3) noted that the Ivorian MPs will oversee the actions of the government to ensure financial transparency.

2. Laurent Gbagbo's top military officers in court

A court in Abidjan started this week the trial of former military officers and strongmen of the regime of former president Laurent Gbagbo. According to *L'Inter* (p. 2) yesterday's hearings were highlighted by the confession of Staff Sergeant Leo Jean-Noel Lago. The daily said that Sergeant Lago confessed to the kidnapping and murder of Colonel Adama Dosso in 2011, adding that Sergeant Lago argued he was just obeying to orders from the chain of command.

3. President Alassane Ouattara to attend summit on monetary cooperation

President Alassane Ouattara will attend the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the monetary union of countries sharing the Franc currency tomorrow in Paris. The information was reported by Fraternite Matin (p. 11) which noted that the event will bring together the 15 member states of the CEMAC/BEAC - countries which have the Franc as their common currency. The Ivorian leader is to open the summit, which also includes group sessions to outline ways to foster competitiveness in the Franc zone, the paper added.

#### 4. FPI youth branch calls off demonstration

On the social front, the youth branch of the FPI has called off a demonstration slated for today. Providing details, Notre Voie (p. 3) noted that the decision came after a statement issued Thursday by the government saying that street demonstrations were restricted. The daily, in a separate development, alleged that the move is meant to silence the opposition.

-----  
OCTOBER 3, 2012

#### Today's Top Stories

1. Pro-Gbagbo top army officer goes on trial
2. Allegations of human rights violations in Cote d'Ivoire
3. Dailies ponder Cote d'Ivoire-Ghana relations
4. IMF forecasts economic growth in Cote d'Ivoire
5. Government to launch a major cocoa campaign
6. U.S. Embassy trains Ivorian news agency journalists

#### 1. Pro-Gbagbo top army officer goes on trial

A front-page headline in L'Inter says that the trial of a top army officer loyal to former president Laurent Gbagbo has turned into "a battleground" between the prosecutor and lawyers for the accused. A report in this paper (p. 4) quotes one of the lawyers for General Bruno Dogbo Ble, the commander of the Republican Guard under Gbagbo, who denounced "a gross violation" of judicial procedures. Describing General Dogbo Ble when he appeared yesterday in court, the paper says that the key military commander during the 2011 post-electoral crisis looked "frail" and like "a toothless lion."

"Dogbo's lawyers put judges in a tight corner," reads a prominent headline in L'Intelligent d'Abidjan. "General Dogbo Ble's lawyers block the trial," writes Notre Voie (p. 1), while a front-page headline in Le Nouveau Courrier announces that "the second round of the trial is set for today." According to Fraternite Matin (p. 14), the prosecutor will respond today to the

lawyers' application for "the cancellation of the procedure." "We're here to offer repentance," a front-page headline in *Le Nouveau Reveil*, however, quotes lawyers as saying yesterday before the court.

The trial is also the subject of a front-page headline in *Le Patriote*, which quotes the former French Ambassador in Cote d'Ivoire as calling General Dogbo Ble "a lost soldier." The French diplomat is also reported (p. 2) as saying that the commander of the Republican Guard under Gbagbo played "a key role" in the post-electoral massacres in Cote d'Ivoire.

## 2. Allegations of human rights violations in Cote d'Ivoire

A fact-finding delegation from Amnesty International has voiced "concerns" over human rights violations in Cote d'Ivoire since the end of the post-electoral crisis in this country, reports *L'Inter* (p. 6). According to the paper, the delegation expressed the concerns yesterday at a meeting with the head of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Charles Konan Banny. "There is a need to restore security and to fight impunity," the paper quotes the head of the delegation as saying. In a related development, the leader of the women's wing of the opposition FPI party called on supporters to stand against "torture and concentration camps," reports *Notre Voie* (p. 4).

## 3. Dailies ponder Cote d'Ivoire-Ghana relations

A prominent headline in *Notre Voie* says that the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC) in Ghana has called for "the release" of former Ivorian president Laurent Gbagbo, who is awaiting trial at the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity. According to the paper, the NDC made the call during the 24<sup>th</sup> International Socialist Congress that was held in September in Cape Town, South Africa.

"Is Ghana a bone in the throat of Ouattara?" asks a banner headline in *L'Inter*, which takes a critical look at the relationship between Ghana and its neighbor Cote d'Ivoire. On the case of Justin Koné Katinan, the spokesperson for the former Ivorian president, who is detained in Ghana on murder charges, the paper comments on a recent statement made by the Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama, telling to the Ivorian authorities to respect the Ghanaian judicial system.

## 4. IMF forecasts economic growth in Cote d'Ivoire

The International Monetary Fund has raised its 2012 economic growth forecast for Cote d'Ivoire from 8.1 to 8.6 percent, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 22). According to the paper, this was announced yesterday at a meeting between a delegation of the IMF and the Ivorian Minister of Economy and Finance, Charles Koffi Diby, in Abidjan. In a related development, the paper reports that Belgium has canceled a FCFA 130 billion (nearly US \$256 million) debt for Cote d'Ivoire.

## 5. Government to launch a major cocoa and coffee campaign

The government of Cote d'Ivoire is to launch today a major cocoa and coffee trading campaign designed to guarantee prices for farmers and encourage them to reinvest in their plantations,

reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6). The announcement was made yesterday by government spokesperson Bruno Kone after a cabinet meeting in Abidjan.

#### 6. U.S. Embassy trains Ivorian news agency journalists

A report in *La Nouvelle* (p. 10) says that the U.S. Embassy is organizing a four-day seminar for chief editors and regional correspondents of the state-run news agency, *Agence Ivoirienne de Presse*. The training, which is led by an American journalist, will focus on topics including news agency writing techniques, coverage of the parliament and media ethics.

---

October 2, 2012

#### Today's Top Stories

1. Laurent Gbagbo's ex-press secretary charged with a double murder shortly after he made bail for his economic crimes charges.

2. Police ex-commander Seka Yapo and General Dogbo Blé among others admit having assassinated General Robert Guéi.

3. USAID to help with Cote d'Ivoire economic and social development: mission conducted to evaluate the relation between deputies and the Ivoirian population.

4. Cote d'Ivoire Debt crisis: Debt-relief contract has been signed between the French and Ivoirian governments.

5. U.S. Embassy offers journalism workshop in collaboration with UNJCI.

1. Laurent Gbagbo's ex-press secretary charged with a double murder shortly after he made bail for his economic crimes charges.

Front page headline in most of the National newspapers write that Koné Katinan has been arrested again. *Le Patriote* (pg.2) writes that 72 hours after posting bail, Laurent Gbagbo's ex-press secretary and Minister of Budget has been accused and arrested by Interpol Ghana for the murder of Kamagaté Seydou and Diabaté Drissa. *Le nouveau Réveil* (pg.2) adds that Désiré Dallo, ex-Minister of Economy and Finance has also been charged with similar charges by a Ghanaian tribunal.

In a related story, *Le temps* (pg.3), *Le Quotidien d'Abidjan* (pg.2), *Notre Voie* (pg.2), report that the Ghanaian president, John D. Mahama stated that the Ivorian government should let the Ghanaian Justice do its work in peace.

2. Police ex-commander Seka Yapo and General Dogbo Blé among others admit having assassinated General Robert Guéi.

A banner headline in *Soir Info* reports (pg.3) that 10 years after the death of General Robert Guéi and his wife, the mysteries shrouding his assassination seem to have been lifted. According to the article, Commander Séka Yapo Anselme, General Dogbo Blé Bruno, Lieutenant-Colonel

Katé Gnatoa and Captain Sakanoko Mory took part in the assassination of the said General in 2002. L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (pg.3) writes that Séka reportedly confessed to Ivorian authorities the events that led up to the murder. Le Patriote (pg.2) writes that the trial of the accused will begin today and that all the witnesses present at the time leading up to the murder will be heard in the court of law.

3. USAID to help with Cote d'Ivoire economic and social development: mission conducted to evaluate the relation between deputies and the Ivoirian population.

An article (pg.3) in Le Nouveau Reveil writes that USAID conducted a mission to evaluate the relation between a deputy and his constituency in Yamoussoukro. USAID is reportedly going to collaborate with the Ivoirian deputies to launch activities aimed at economic and social development the Cote d'Ivoire.

4. Cote d'Ivoire Debt crisis: Debt-relief contract has been signed between the French and Ivoirian governments.

The French government via its embassy is going to help Cote d'Ivoire improve the education system reports l'Inter (pg.8). According to the article, the French Ambassador, M. Georges Serre and the Ivoirian Minister of Economy signed a debt-relief and development contract (C2D) on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. The accord will make available 61 billion CFA to improve the education system and employment situation.

In a similar story, Le Patriote (pg.12) reports that a joint IMF-World Bank delegation is pleased with Cote d'Ivoire's 2012 economic growth. Le Nouveau Reveil (pg. 9) states that the delegation is reportedly going to provide 50 billion CFA to the Ivoirian treasury to help further increase its growth in the coming years.

5. U.S. Embassy offers journalism workshop in collaboration with UNJCI

According to an article in Le Patriote (pg.7) entitled "Back to school for political journalists", The U.S. Embassy in collaboration with the UNJCI organized a three-day workshop aimed at teaching political journalists the relationship between the press and the government. The workshop that ended the 28<sup>th</sup> of September was led primarily by M. Edouardo Cue, an American expert in political journalism.

---

OCTOBER 1, 2012

Today's Top Stories

1. Gbagbo's spokesperson arrested again in Ghana
2. The US government increases aid to Cote d'Ivoire
3. Government-appointed administrators called on to be at the heart of the fight against child labor

### 1. Gbagbo's spokesperson arrested again in Ghana

A few days after being released on bail by a court in Ghana, Justin Katinan Kone, the exiled spokesman of former Ivorian leader Laurent Gbagbo was again arrested on Friday by the Ghanaian police. The information made news over the weekend and has triggered mixed comments in today's press. An article in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 7) said Mr. Katinan has to appear today before a court over allegations of blood crimes. According to the paper, Mr. Katinan was arrested by Interpol agents. This development, though not publicly discussed, is being closely watched by the Ivorian authorities, the paper said.

*Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 2) said that this move will definitely pave the way for a timely extradition of Mr. Katinan. According to the daily, his extradition will take place in a matter of days.

Opposition papers, namely *Notre Voie* (pp. 2-3) alleged that the Ivorian government has unsuccessfully attempted to kidnap Mr. Katinan as he was heading to a meeting at the Ghanaian police headquarters.

In a statement made Saturday, the leadership of the FPI said the arrest of Gbagbo's aide and onetime Budget Minister is irrational. "We are deeply upset by this rather unexpected arrest," the paper reported FPI acting secretary general Richard Kodjo as saying. "We are nonetheless upbeat on his release," he added.

In a related development, *L'Inter* (p. 4) noted that following the deadly attacks in N'Zi, Ghanaian security forces have increased patrols along the Ivorian border. According to the daily these joint security operations have started to pay off and have led to the arrest of four alleged assailants suspected of links to the recent cross border raid.

This development came as a military court is to try former military officers allegedly involved in the post-electoral violence. According to *Le Patriote* (p. 3) the hearing of General Dogbo Ble and Vagba Faussignaux is to open today in Abidjan.

### 2. The US government increases aid to Cote d'Ivoire

The US government is to provide an additional \$ 8,815,000 to the government of Cote d'Ivoire in a bid to support democracy, governance, and reconciliation. The information was reported in the weekend edition of *Soir Info* (p. 3) which noted that this support is being provided through an amendment to an existing agreement between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the government of Cote d'Ivoire. The signing ceremony was attended Friday in Abidjan by the Ivorian Minister of Plan and Development Albert Mabri Toikeuse, the paper said. The grant will support the reinforcement of the capacity of the National Assembly to serve as a structure independent of the executive branch and to fulfill its essential functions of legislation, representation, and governmental oversight. It will also support the justice sector by providing equipment and rehabilitating infrastructure that will foster administrative capacity in order to increase efficiency, accessibility, and equitable treatment for all, the paper said.

### 3. Government-appointed administrators called on to be at the heart of the fight against child labor

According to a report in *Fraternite Matin* (pp. 4-5) préfets have been called on to lead the fight against child labor. Gathered over the weekend in Yamoussoukro on the initiative of the Ivorian First Lady Dominique Ouattara, the country's administrators were instructed on the issue of child labor and trafficking in persons. In her address, the Ivorian First Lady pleaded for collective action against the phenomenon. "Our country must no longer be known as a place where this practice is ongoing," she reportedly said, arguing that child labor has a negative impact on the country's cocoa industry. For their part, the regional administrators committed to supporting the initiatives against child labor and called for strong action against individuals engaged in child labor.

### **Media affiliation and circulation**

Fraternite Matin	State-owned daily newspaper	23,000
L'Intelligent d'Abidjan	Privately-owned daily, leans pro-President Alassane Ouattara	7,000
L'Inter	Independent daily	20,000
Nord-Sud Quotidien	Daily close to Prime Minister Guillaume Soro	10,000
Notre Voie	Daily close to the FPI, the party of Former President Laurent Gbagbo	15,000
Le Nouveau Courrier	Daily close to the FPI, the party of Former President Laurent Gbagbo	10,000
Le Nouveau Reveil	Daily close to the PDCI-RDA, the party of Former President Henri Konan Bedie	17,000
Le Patriote	Daily close to the RDR, the party of President Alassane Ouattara	17,000
RTI TV	State broadcaster	
Soir Info	Independent daily	22,000
AIP	State News Agency	

*NOTE: Newspaper circulation figures represent the number of copies printed, not actual sales.*